

# PAPERS READ

BEFORE THE

## LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 1913.

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"History herself, as seen in her own workshop."

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AN EARLY CANAL PROJECT.  
AN ARTISTIC AFTERMATH.  
PATTERSON-ANDREWS GENEALOGY.  
MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING.

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VOL. XVII. NO. 4.

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# AN EARLY CANAL PROJECT

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The writer's interest in the early waterways and inland navigation of Lancaster county was somewhat quickened recently by reading an unpublished letter, written at Harrisburg, August 12, 1824, to Richard B. McCabe, of Huntingdon, by Persifor Frazer, of the notable family whose name he bore, conspicuous aforetime in Delaware and Chester counties, and later in Philadelphia. In one paragraph of local personal interest he said:

"George B. Porter, Esq., passed through this place two or three days since on his way to Lancaster. Previous to his arrival here he had been appointed Adjutant General, to succeed Col. Carr. He will, I think, make an excellent officer; and his appointment, in this section of the country, appears to be highly approved of. The Goddess of fortune, or rather of office, appears to bestow her favors with a liberal hand on descendants of the brave General Porter."

It will be remembered this was the Porter who married a daughter of Samuel Humes, and became the father of Rose Porter, later Shissler, of Galena, Ill., and of Humes Porter. He was made territorial Governor of Michigan, and after his death his widow built an edifice on North Duke street, now the Iris Club house. About the same time his brother, David Rittenhouse Porter, was Governor of Pennsylvania from January 15, 1839, to January 21, 1845. Meantime another brother, James Madison Porter,

of Easton, Pa., was Secretary of War under President Tyler. A son of Gov. Porter is the General Horace A. Porter, of military and diplomatic fame, Gen. Grant's chief of staff and one-time Ambassador to France; he resides in New York. Another was the famous Judge William A. Porter, of the Philadelphia Bench and Bar; his son, William W. Porter, was one of the first Judges of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Verily, as Fraser wrote, "Fortune favored the family."

Another and more significant paragraph in the same epistle reads as follows:

"As respects the canal commissioners, I think you will not have the pleasure of seeing them before the latter part of next summer. We had almost concluded here that they had been drowned in some of the rivulets of Chester county; for it was more than a month before we heard anything of them. Within a few days past we have ascertained that they are in the neighborhood of Churchtown, Lancaster county, progressing in their surveys. They have found an abundance of water on the summit level, and believe that a canal can be made the whole way from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna in the neighborhood of Harrisburg, at an average expense of \$1,500 per mile. The summit level proves to be no less than sixty-five miles in extent. All that is now wanting to ensure canals in every direction through the State is—money.

"Political—Nearly all for Jackson here—A few for Adams—and three for Crawford!"

The idea of a canal on the ridge lands about Churchtown reads a trifle ludicrous now; and if an estimated cost of \$1,500 per mile was calculated to stagger the financiers of the Commonwealth, what would have hap-



pened had a project been started that would to the infant State of that day been relatively commensurate with the Federal scheme at Panama?

And yet there is extended historic justification for the survey then apparently making in the region of Churchtown, Honeybrook and Morgantown, for a canal to connect the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers with a the waters of the Susquehanna, at a point the line of which would traverse the Churchtown country. Swank, in his "Progressive Pennsylvania," traces the conception back to William Penn, and pays tribute to one of our indefatigable members when he says: "In the 'Proposals for a Second Settlement' on the Susquehanna river William Penn, in 1690, says that a 'way' by land had been 'laid out' between the Delaware and the Susquehanna rivers 'at least three years ago,' and that communication between this proposed settlement and the settlements already made on the Delaware would 'not be hard to do by water by the benefit of the river Schuylkill, for a branch of that river lies near a branch that runs into the Susquehanna river and is the common course of the Indians with their skins and furs into our parts.' In these words Penn certainly indicates French creek and Conestoga creek as the branches which could be utilized in uniting the Susquehanna and Schuylkill rivers. His 'way' was undoubtedly a road from the mouth of French creek to a point near the mouth of the Conestoga. H. Frank Eshleman, of Lancaster, has made this matter clear. To Penn belongs the credit for first suggesting, as early as 1690, the project for continuous water transportation from the Delaware to the Susquehanna, but he did not specifically suggest the building of a canal."

Henry S. Tanner, in his "Description of the Canals and Railroads of the United States" (1840), says that "application was made to the Provincial Legislature for authority to open a water communication between the Schuylkill and the Susquehanna rivers, and in the year 1762 a survey with a view to this object was effected, by which its practicability was satisfactorily demonstrated." Tanner gives no further particulars of the alleged "survey," but other writers, without submitting any proof, say that it was made by David Rittenhouse and Dr. William Smith in 1762.

This survey was likely made about 1769; and ran further to the north, passing through what is now Lebanon county. Philadelphia, jealous of the trade which Baltimore drew from Pennsylvania, as the Susquehanna drained toward the Chesapeake, was ever alert to the advantage of joining the waters of the State in some scheme of transportation which led to the metropolis and entry port of our Commonwealth. Bolles, in his "Pennsylvania, Province and State," says:

"In those days transportation under the most favorable conditions was expensive, and the carriage of goods around the peninsula and up the bay to Philadelphia was a costly charge. To overcome Baltimore's advantage, it was proposed to build a canal from the Susquehanna to the Schuylkill, and to improve 'the navigation of all rivers so far as they led towards our capital city.' This was just before the Revolution; and many were desirous of building a canal through the heart of the country. The contest with Great Britain soon overshadowed every other, and business rivalry was forgotten."

Later there were revivals of the scheme; surveys and plans and legislative movements toward its actualization were authorized in 1825. The incoming of the railway superseded all thought of a canal on the Churchtown plateau; but generations later witnessed the locomotive climb the slopes of the Welsh Mountain, and the route from Lancaster to Philadelphia, via New Holland, Beartown, Honeybrook and Downingtown, is very little longer than the main line. Even if the large conception of 1825 had been realized, it would have been of brief local advantage, as the packet and barge, the towpath and mule power, lasted only a little while longer as elements of modern transportation.

# AN ARTISTIC AFTERMATH

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I am indebted to Mr. John D. Chalfant, artist, of Wilmington, Del., for an opportunity to see a catalogue of the "First Annual Exhibition of the Society of Artists of the United States," which was held in Philadelphia, under the auspices of what is now the Academy of Fine Arts, in 1811. It was a notable and significant event in the history of the arts in this then new country. The title page of this rather modest pamphlet of forty-seven pages bears the quotation from Pope, "Dare to have sense yourselves." It was printed by Tho. L. Plowman, and sold at the reasonable price of twenty-five cents. By comparison with the recent splendid publication of our local portraiture exhibition, it presents a rather shabby appearance; but in the list of names, then perhaps obscure, but since become illustrious, it exhibits the work of eminent geniuses.

There were shown at this display 127 works of American artists and among the names since become familiar are those of Rembrandt and James Peale, Wurtmiller, Sully and Stuart. Raphael, Anna and Maria Peale all had works on exhibition. The Birches, Thomas and William, figure in this catalogue, and Denis A. Volozan seems to have been a prominent contemporary artist of classical subjects. Benjamin West's "King Lear" and "Ophelia" were there. The most numerous contributor to the occasion was F. Guy, whose landscapes made up nearly a sixth of the whole collection, and they were all "for

sale." There were several works of W. Broombridge. The feature, however, of special local interest, and recalled now with peculiar timeliness, is the fact that Jacob Eichholtz, then an "Associate Artist," appears in this early exposition with three pictures; one of these, a "Portrait of a Gentleman," was, of course, the early Nicholas Biddle picture of that period, and likely the one that Eichholtz carried with him to Boston, when he went there to interview the great Stuart. That picture, as I have heretofore reported, remains in Philadelphia, on the walls of the home of Mr. Biddle's daughter, who has been deceased since our portraiture exposition was held. Her nephew has had it carefully restored by Wilkinson, the skilled artist and finisher, and a recent view which I had of it displayed remarkable freshness and brilliancy of color, the special Eichholtz red coming out in splendid form. It would be of interest to know who was the subject of the other "Portrait of a Gentleman," then exhibited by Eichholtz, as well as his third picture, "Innocence," which was in all probability one of his own children and possibly may be identified with some of the present possessions of his work in his own family. It is gratifying to know that even at the early day and stage of his art development he had as many as three pictures in this limited collection.

Besides the work of American artists, this first annual exhibition included about 200 works of foreign artists, ancient and modern, and already in Philadelphia or other parts of the country there were owned landscapes by Teniers, portraits by Reubens, animal pictures by Paul Potter, numerous specimens of the Dutch artists as well as Rembrandts, Van

Dykes, Watteaus, Titians, Gordaens, Anglica Kauffmans, Jaen Steens, Ostades, and others, upon whom time has set its approval and enormously heightened their values.

Since the publication in the transactions of this Society of the recollections of Eichholtz and the partial catalogue of his works, I have discovered there are quite a number of others extant, which were not then known and recorded. It goes without saying that the history of his life and works, published by this society, has quickened interest in and an appreciation of him, as well as much enhanced the market value of his productions.

For example, a family portrait has turned up in Denver, Colorado. It is owned by the widow of Leonard Eichholtz, who died a year or two ago. It bears the date 1820. The subject is Henry Eichholtz, who was a brother of the artist. He moved from Lancaster to Downingtown, and there kept the hotel which is adjacent to the Pennsylvania Railroad. He was the father of Leonard Eichholtz, who went to Colorado in the early sixties. The portrait is half-length, looking left.

In the possession of J. Lane Reed, of Dayton, Ohio, there are three Eichholtz portraits. One is that of George Ford, born 1773, died 1843; the second of Mary Ann Elizabeth Hull Ford, born 1770, died 1845, grandparents of the owner. The third is that of Henry Robert Reed, his father, dated 1816. Mr. Ford's portrait was painted in 1812, and is, therefore, one of the earliest of the artist's works.

A very considerable cluster of Eichholtz portraits and the relations of a notable Lancaster family have been traced to and through Mr. Edward S.

Sayres, a prominent member of the Philadelphia Bar. He is a great grandson of Samuel Humes, who appears in the Eichholtz ledger as one of the artist's liberal local patrons. Miss Hamilton, of St. Paul, who is a kinswoman of the Humes family, has four Eichholtz portraits, viz., of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Humes; of Dr. Samuel Humes, a son, and of another son, William Humes, who married Miss Harriet Church, of Philadelphia, and was a member of the company of State Fencibles in the War of 1812, commanded by Hartman Kuhn, a Philadelphia descendant of Adam Simon Kuhn, a conspicuous figure in old Lancaster and foremost in Old Trinity.

The Eichholtz portraits owned and highly prized by Mr. Sayres are five in number, as follows:

Samuel Humes (the elder). of Lancaster, sitting, facing left.

Mary Hamilton Humes (his wife), daughter of James Hamilton, of Leacock.

John Humes, of Philadelphia, merchant and Register of Wills, born in Lancaster, son of Samuel and Mary Hamilton; sitting, facing left.

Jane McPhail Humes, wife of John Humes, with babe in arms and her daughter. She was a daughter of John McPhail, merchant, of Philadelphia, and Ann Mackenzie, his wife; sitting, facing left.

Ann McPhail, wife of John McPhail, born Ann Mackenzie, mother of Mrs. Jane McPhail; sitting, facing left.

All these portraits, excepting the one of Mrs. John Humes, which lacks vigor, have always been considered very fine.

In note ix, page 30, of the Eichholtz biography, is a letter from a Legislative Committee of Delaware, directing a painting for the State Capitol of

Col. John Gibson, in action at Erie. I have learned that this work was executed as proposed and furnished the Delaware Commonwealth, and remains now, after more than eighty years, one of the art treasures of the State House.

According to the Delaware Legislative Journal, a joint resolution to have this portraint printed was adopted by the General Assembly February 6, 1822. The subject was suggested by the fact that Colonel James Gibson was a native of Delaware, and fell in defense of his country at the memorable sortie at Lake Erie, September 17, 1814. The committee appointed under the resolution was somewhat tardy, and the matter was renewed on February 16, 1829, when a new committee was appointed and \$120 appropriated for the purpose. No further record is made of the committee's work or report, but the picture was procured and paid for. The portrait is three-quarter length, in uniform with sword, and is in fairly good condition. Gibson was born in Sussex county, Delaware. He joined the regular army and was absent from his native Commonwealth most of his life.

The other day a portrait, obscured with the dust of ages and despoiled by cellar damp, was sold at a Philadelphia auction room, to which it had been brought by a colored drayman who rescued it from the basement of an abandoned house. A restorer and fancier of fine arts discerned in it some merit and bought it for a song. The restoration enhanced its likeness and value; the purchaser became certain it was an auto-portrait of Eichholtz. He studied our biography and catalogue and was convinced; and when he compared it with



the features of a descendant of Eichholtz he was certain. A wealthy connoisseur and art patron dropped into his shop, saw the picture, and, having been led to an appreciation of the supposed author, without further authentication, bought it at a price three-fold as much as Eichholtz ever was paid for any production. Its genuineness is yet to be established, as the family has no trace of this newly-found portrait.

That the general influence of the portrait exhibition led to a local stimulation of interest in the fine arts has already been manifested in many ways. A remarkable illustration is furnished by a letter sent to a gentleman interested in this subject by a citizen of the lower end of Lancaster county, who travels extensively through the lower end and adjoining parts of York county and Maryland, and, therefore, has special opportunities to become acquainted with the art treasures of that locality. He writes as follows to a sympathetic friend:

"I am in touch with the owner of some fine old paintings, among them one each of Henry and Mary Stewart. these are by M. Angelo. they are genuine I wish to bring them to the notice of Morgan & Carnegie. can you put me wise in the matter? if you can think I can make it worth your while to do so."

Whether his reference to the Stuarts involves the royal house of England seems to be a little uncertain, but the fact that the portraits are authenticated as the work of M. Angelo certainly makes them worthy the attention of Mr. Carnegie, now that America's foremost patron of the fine arts has passed away.

# Patterson-Andrews Genealogy

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About 1840 James Patterson Andrews, M. D., commenced a compilation of a genealogical register of the descendants of James and Mary (Montgomery) Patterson, founders of the Little Britain, Lancaster county, branch of the Patterson family, and also of the descendants of the Chester county branch of the Andrews family, of which Widow Andrews was founder; the two families being early and closely connected by marriage, Dr. Andrews continued his register up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1875. Of recent years George M. Black, of Oak Park, Ill., of the fourth generation of Pattersons and the fifth generation of Andrewses, has been making an effort to continue the lines of work with the view of putting the whole pamphlet into book form, when as near complete as possible.

Prompt assistance is asked of those knowing themselves to be descended from Widow Andrews or James and Mary (Montgomery) Patterson.

The subject is one that should appeal to a large number of persons in our county, especially resident in the Lower End, where both strains of the family were numerous and influential. I take it the Colerain and Little Britain and the Chester county Pattersons were distinct from the family of the same name who so largely peopled the Donegal region and left their deep imprint in that locality. James Patterson, the elder, at the age of twenty, came from his native county of Antrim, Ireland, to Little Britain,

in 1728. His bride, Mary Montgomery, followed him from the North of Ireland three or four years later, and married him. Widow Andrews and her children came later and settled in Chester county. Her daughter, Frances, married Robert Gardner and their daughter, Letitia, married James Montgomery Patterson, son of James and Mary. Hence the many Wilson, Andrews, Ewing, Shippen, Clendennin, Neiper, Black and White notable families of lower Lancaster county. The illustrious Ramsays—David, doctor, statesman and historian; William, the divine; and Nathaniel, soldier and Treasury official—were nephews of one of the women of this Patterson-Andrews line. Robert Fulton, the inventor, through his lineage from the Blacks and Smiths, was collaterally related to this family. Robert Fulton, the elder, married his cousin, Mary Smith, daughter of Joseph.

John Black, father of the present genealogist of this family, was born in Chester county, in 1798. His mother, Hannah Ross Black, was full cousin of Robert Fulton, of steamboat fame. Her mother was Isabella Smith, sister of Mary Smith, mother of Fulton. They were daughters of Joseph Smith, born in Ireland, 1704, came to Chester county, 1726, with a brother, John, and sister, Mary, who married William Fulton. They were grandparents of Robert, the inventor.

Biographers became confused in the two Mary Smiths, and many mistakes have occurred in writing the family lines. John (1686), Mary (?), and Joseph (1704), were born in County Monaghan, Ireland, children of John Macdonald Smith, born in County Antrim, 1655. His parents came from Scotland, and were named Macdonald. The name of Smith was given to John

by William of Orange, at or about the time of the battle of the Boyne, from an incident that occurred wherein the King's horse cast a shoe, which was replaced by John Macdonald. The King inquired of the man his name, and was told Macdonald. The King told him his name ought to be Macdonald the smith. The remark was heard by some of Macdonald's neighbors, who dubbed him with the name, and the Smith name was adopted by the family, and Smith it has remained.

# MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING

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Lancaster, Pa., April 4, 1913.

The Lancaster County Historical Society held its monthly meeting tonight in the Smith Public Library building. President Steinman was in the chair, and Miss Martha B. Clark acted as secretary pro tem. The attendance was good.

The librarian, Miss Bausman, announced the following donations received during March:

Magazines and Pamphlets—Viceroy of New Spain, from the University of California; Kittingtinny Historical Society, Volume VII; American Catholic Historical Society, Records; Lebanon County Historical Society; Pennsylvania-German; Linden Hall Echo; Two Oldest Congregations of the United Presbyterians Church; Bulletins of New York Public Library and Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh; Volume 1 (unbound) of the Lancaster County Historical Society Papers, from F. R. Diffenderffer; number of copies of old newspapers, mostly of Lancaster publications, beginning with 1794, also several old documents, from F. R. Diffenderffer; number of miscellaneous pamphlets from Dr. R. K. Buehrle; two political banners of the Buchanan campaign, from Fred. S. Pyfer.

A vote of thanks was extended the donors.

On motion it was decided to purchase a copy of the Herr Genealogy for \$5.

Miss Bausman, the librarian, brought up the question of securing an additional room in the building for the use

of the society, and on motion a committee composed of F. R. Diffenderfer, A. K. Hostetter and Miss Bausman, was appointed to confer with the library management in reference to the matter.

The name of Charles Ezra Bowman was proposed for membership, and the following were duly elected: Charles B. Keller, Lancaster; Walter C. Hager, Esq., Lancaster; Willis Rohrer, Lancaster, and Rev. H. T. Denlinger, 360 West Twenty-eighth street, New York City.

Mr. W. U. Hensel, who has been active in promoting the previous very successful celebrations, submitted a proposal for "Our Next Popular Celebration," as follows:

The suggestion has been made—originating with one of our most active and interested members, Judge Landis—that the annual event of this society, in the nature of a public and popular celebration, shall have this year for its theme "Lancaster County in the War for the Union," centering around the personality of our most distinguished soldier of that period, John Fulton Reynolds, and comprising in its scope the erection of some memorial to him. There are many good reasons for favorable consideration of this idea:

First—We have celebrated Lancaster county in the War of the Revolution; and have commemorated our great inventor, the German Mennonite settlements, the Quaker anti-slavery influence. Now, the position taken by our community and its people in the great epoch of preserving the Union of States and establishing National Sovereignty is a subject of equal significance with any of these and quite

fit to found upon it a popular celebration.

Second—Reynolds was native to our soil and city. His family lived here for generations and sprang from that French Huguenot race, which though comparatively few in number and intermingled almost inseparably with other strains, has been large in influence and persistent in its characteristics.

Third—Appointed to the United Military Academy by a Congressman of this district, who was the only Pennsylvanian to ever become President of the United States, he finished his course with honors, discharged responsible duties for fifteen years of peace, fought gallantly and won promotion in the Mexican war; traversed the continent in military expedition when the path to the Pacific was yet unfixed; left the commandantship at West Point for field service at the outbreak of the war, discharged his duties brilliantly at every stage, until, assigned by Meade to fatal distinction, he fell as a hero wearing battle-harness in the first day's fight—easily at that time, says Count Paris, historian of the Civil War, the most promising soldier of the army of the Potomac.

Fourth—The decisive battle of Gettysburg was the only engagement of the war on the soil of a free State. The incidents of the Confederate invasion directly touched the border of Lancaster; the thunder of the guns was heard in this city; and our people were quick to respond to the call for relief. It was the supreme occasion of the whole war to touch their sympathies and quicken their activities.

Finally—The erection of another outdoor and ornamental memorial to the illustrious dead of Lancaster, if

related to some eminently fit subject like the one proposed, will likely lead to others of the kind. Williamson Park has been decorated with the Hand tablet. The Long and Buchanan parks, either of them would afford a noble site and picturesque background for such a marker; while the new Boulevard or Parkway under construction in the West End would afford numerous spaces for the location of a memorial, whether modest or elaborate.

I, therefore, move that a committee of three, to be appointed by the chair, consider this subject and report at the next meeting upon the practicability of the Society this year commemorating, by a popular celebration and enduring marker, one of the historic events or characters of Lancaster county.

President Steinman will, in the near future, appoint the committee of three, and active work in planning for the big event will be begun.

Mr. Hensel read three short but very interesting papers. One of them was on the subject, "To and Through Churchtown By Canal," referring to an early project to connect Harrisburg and Philadelphia by a waterway. Another paper gave the Patterson-Andrews genealogy, while the third was entitled, "An Artistic Aftermath," giving some facts about the "First Annual Exhibition of the Society of Artists of the United States," held in Philadelphia in 1811. Among the exhibitors was our own Jacob Eichholtz.

Adjourned.









